

## Our 2002 Annual Report is now available!

To learn more about DWD, take a look at our 2002 Annual Report. It illustrates some of our accomplishments and explains our services. It can be found on our website at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

If you would prefer a hard copy of the report, would like to be added to our email list or would like to share ideas for future Developments topics, please contact [dwieland@dwd.state.in.us](mailto:dwieland@dwd.state.in.us).

## Employment Trends

### April Unemployment Stats

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 5.1 percent. This is seven-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 5.8 percent.

Just over 3 million Hoosiers were employed during April.

Indiana's April unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6.5 percent; Ohio, 6.1 percent; Illinois, 6.1 percent; and Kentucky at 5.6 percent.

### April Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 5-3-03 . . . . .	70,454
Week of 5-10-03 . . . . .	67,819
Week of 5-17-03 . . . . .	67,686
Week of 5-24-03 . . . . .	68,618
Week of 5-31-03 . . . . .	67,033

## JOBS Facts

### Job Opportunities and Business Services

The job fairs and job openings will be advertised to reach the target audience through radio and television commercials, magazine and journal ads, direct mailings, and on career websites.

For information about JOBS visit [www.workforce.in.gov/energize](http://www.workforce.in.gov/energize)

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## Department of Workforce Development

Indiana Government Center South

10 N. Senate Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2277

Phone: 317/232-7670

FAX: 317/233-4793

TDD: 317/232-7560

[www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov)

Frank O'Bannon, Governor

Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

## Breaking News

### Federal TEUC program extended through January 3, 2004

The Department of Workforce Development announced that the federal Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program, established through the TEUC Act of 2002, will continue through January 3, 2004. The president signed the extension into law on May 28 to continue benefits for an additional thirteen weeks for workers who have not previously used TEUC benefits, but who will exhaust regular benefits by the January 3 date.

"These benefits are a welcome relief to the many unemployed Hoosiers who were not included in the federal extension for air-related industry workers the president signed in April," said Alan Degner, Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. For additional information, visit our website at [www.workforce.in.gov/unemploy/whatsnew.html](http://www.workforce.in.gov/unemploy/whatsnew.html) or stop by your local WorkOne Center.

### The DWD Advance Indiana program is restructured

The Advance Indiana program within the Department of Workforce Development has been restructured to better serve the customer. Teams have been created to focus on an individual industrial sector. There will be a team for Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology, High Tech Distribution, and Life Sciences.

Each team will have at least one Business Relations Specialist who will make site visits to employers, develop training programs and coordinate the JOBS program. A Development Specialist will focus on monitoring and reporting, assisting employers with applications, and guiding projects through the contracting process.

Deputy Commissioner Arin Mathies stated, "I am confident that this new structure will allow us to address the needs of employers and be more knowledgeable about the industrial sectors that are growing in Indiana. These are the areas that will be hiring over the next several years and we want to help them find high skilled staff while increasing the skill level of their current employees."

### Legislative Update

The Indiana General Assembly produced three pieces of legislation that impact the Department of Workforce Development. The state budget bill provides DWD \$72.2 million as part of Governor O'Bannon's Energize Indiana program. The appropriation will enable DWD to modernize its Unemployment Insurance system and fund the Job Opportunities Business Services (JOBS) program.

UI modernization will benefit both employers and employees by building a new customer-friendly computer system. It is estimated that total savings to the state over ten years are \$355.5 million. The JOBS component will assist Indiana businesses in recruiting employees and in assessing workers' skills.

Two additional bills will also have an impact on the way DWD does business. One will increase the maximum unemployment benefit to \$390 by July 1, 2005. Also included in the bill, the Incumbent Worker Training Fund will not sunset in 2004 but will be a permanent part of Indiana's effort to train workers for high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs. The third bill creates an exception to the law that will allow victims of domestic violence or family violence to be eligible for unemployment benefits.